

## University of Groningen

### Reviving the Region

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## Propositions

1. The literature on multi-level governance has focused primarily on power shifts between national governments and the European Commission, without sufficiently acknowledging the active role played by regional actors in shaping multi-level governance dynamics.
2. Rather than constant reinterpretation through new theoretical lenses, regional science should prioritize detailed quantitative and qualitative accounts of regional development and territorial policies.
3. Historical research on regional policy shows that claims of paradigm shifts are overstated, because new ideas only slowly enter practice and policies of the past have a long legacy.
4. Reform processes of regional governance have too often resulted in one-size fits all solutions applied to all regions.
5. National governments and the European Union fail to consider the impact of reforms on existing governance structures and policy traditions at regional level.
6. Cliché ideas about rural regions have continued to dominate regional development policy despite the rhetorical embrace of a more place-based approach.
7. Endogenous development policy in rural areas offers a rich context to study the interaction between various policy fields at regional level including rural development, policies for disadvantaged regions, innovation policy and industrial policy.
8. The various strategic agendas formulated by the European Union since the Lisbon Agenda (2000) have led to a centralization in regional policy, thereby eroding the principle of subsidiarity.
9. Community participation, when situated in a complex and multi-level policy environment, necessarily requires capabilities and tenacity of civil society organizations and citizens.
10. Cities are overrated